Monday Message #7

Nobles and Ladies,

I've got a ton of information to put out after attending PNSA last weekend so please be patient and try to make it through to the end. There are quite a few major changes that were put out by the Imperial Potentate and some potential legislation that could greatly impact Calam.

Leading with good news, PP Russ and Kate Graves, PP Jim Logan, Matt Plemmons, Kenny Buckner and myself had a great time meeting with the leadership of the PNSA and learning many best practices and ideas to bring back to help Calam. We were very proud to see Russ Graves PP receive an award from the PNSA President for outstanding service to the PNSA and Shriners. It was well deserved. There also may or may not have been a Camel Heist during the event and a giant stuffed Camel from the Host temple may have disappeared and may have reappeared for ransom at the final nights banquet but that is just a rumor. El Katif PP John Robertson also received the Imperial Potentates award for service to the fraternity.

The first big item the Imperial Potentate wanted us to share was concerning the second section of our initiation ritual. His message is that there will absolutely be no more section sections allowed and has made changes to general order number 1 to reflect that. The Joint Board legal team has made it clear that if there is any lawsuit resulting from an initiation it could result in judgments against the temple which could drain the Temple assets, the Temple Divan as officers and their personal assets. Whether or not you agree with this new direction, we need to discuss potential alternatives such as the Arch ceremony and the Knickerbocker degree at our next Quarterly meeting on April 9th.

The second item is that there is again a resolution to raise the Imperial Assessment by $20 at this year’s Imperial Session. The fraternity is operating on a deficit budget just over 1mil this last year and with membership trending downward, the per capita assessment has dropped by over $3 million over the last several years. Costs for running Shriners International are increasing steadily and without a change soon the Fraternity will be in financial difficulty.

The third item could very strongly impact Calam Shriners and 15 other temples. There is a resolution being proposed that would put any temple charter for temples under 300 members into an under-dispensation status and give them 3 years to get back over 300 members or they will be closed or absorbed into another Temple. It would also outline procedures for closing and merging temples. Calam is currently under 240 members and losing about 6% average a year so this could put us in a difficult situation. The official resolution language should be out shortly, and I will update as soon as I know more. I'm not confident that this will pass this year, but we need to prepare for any eventuality and get ahead of this now. I am working with the Imperial membership team to help develop best practices and a long-term membership plan for Calam. I've invited the PNW Regional Membership Representative to come and speak with our Temple about Membership and Marketing and what we can do to continue to work on this issue.

Fourth, Summer PNSA in Chilliwack B.C. has been cancelled due to Covid and Border issues. They are looking at moving it to Nile Shriners in the Seattle Tacoma area at a later time, maybe September. I will update when I know more.

Preparations are in full swing for the Nobility Ball on March 19th. I am working on a block rate at the CDA Inn for those coming in from out of town. We would like everyone to enjoy themselves and not have to worry about driving so we will have arrangements to help with Uber or Lyft taxi's to and from the hotels/home along with the new temple van. We will have a Divan member helping to get folks safely back. We have updated the dress code to Formal for the Divan and Semi-formal for everyone else. One of the PNSA temples mentioned that have members donate old ball gowns and Tuxes that may not fit quite as well so that other members can use them. If this is something we are interested, please reach out. We may have some new members that could use your gently worn items. We are working on a daily basis on the sign-up form for the Ball so please be patient as we get the website working better. I still need pictures of our Military veterans for the ball, please send them in.

March 27th at 2 pm at the Millwood Masonic Center, 3219 Argonne, RD Millwood Washington will be the 2022-23 installation of officers for Daughters of the Nile El Karnak Temple No. 6. We have quite a few Calam Ladies including First Lady Elle that are Nile member so please come show your support.

Elle and I would like to invite everyone to join us in Las Vegas October 3-9th for the PGA Shriners Childrens Open Golf Tournament for the 2022 Calam Trip. We will be volunteering alongside patient ambassadors from each Shriners Childrens Hospital in the system. If we can get at least ten people to attend, we can be assigned a Calam Shriners Hole to Marshall during the week. Volunteers will need to complete at least three 6 hour shifts during the week, but the rest of our time will be free. The host hotel, The Red Rock Casino, will have a block rate for us in the $90 to $100 range and is located 11 miles from the Las Vegas Strip so we will have plenty of opportunities to enjoy shopping, dining, and world class shows while we are there. I am also speaking with the airlines to try for a group rate on airfare to limit costs. I am hoping to keep things under $1500 a person. Please look at your schedules and plan to join us.

April 9th is our Calam quarterly meeting. As I've mentioned, we have a few important issues to discuss that could have a big impact on our Temple. Please come give your input and votes. Don't let a small percentage of our Nobles make decisions for you, this is too crucial. If you can't attend in person, we will be making Zoom available for those out of town. Club and Unit officers please think about hosting a local spot to sign in to Zoom to join us so we get as much participation as possible. If you have questions, concerns or input before the meeting I am available via email, phone or text.

If you aren't busy Friday night, the Spokane Shriners Hospital is hosting at the Spokane Chiefs Hockey game. Elementary students from 10 area schools will be getting discount tickets to attend and receive a gift. This would be a great time to show our Shrine Spirit. Tickets are available at Spokanechiefs.com. If you would like to carpool, please contact me.

Club/Unit officers, thank you to those who have sent me your schedule of events. I will be visiting you soon. To those who haven't please update me so our Divan can come an attend or volunteer at an event soon. I am also still looking for nominations for Shriner of the month for February. I've only received two so far and I know that we have many more than two Shriners that have been providing outstanding service. Please get a nomination to me soon.

The 2022 Imperial Session will be in Minneapolis July 2-9. If you would like to attend, please let me or our Recorder know so we can get you registered. In the next few weeks, we will be making travel arrangements. If you haven't had a chance to attend it is great opportunity to meet with hundreds of Shriners and see all the amazing things our fraternity is involved.

Thank you for taking the time to read all the way through this. Thank you all for your service to Calam. We are so proud of our Nobles and Ladies and have loved working alongside you. We are truly lucky!

Thank you!

Dustin Hatfield

Calam Shriners

Potentate 2022

Elle Hatfield

First Lady 2022